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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/731,876	12/09/2003	Adam J. Koffler	1499.006US1	6732
21186	7590	06/21/2005	EXAMINER	
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A. P.O. BOX 2938 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0938			WHITE, RODNEY BARNETT	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3636	

DATE MAILED: 06/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/731,876

Applicant(s)

KOFFLER, ADAM J.

Examiner

Rodney B. White

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,7-26,28 and 31-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,7-26,28 and 31-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim1-2, 4, 7-26, 28, and 31-52 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting

directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-2, 4, and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schmale (U.S. Patent No. 6,481,801 B1).

Schmale teaches a continuous, one piece seamless structure substantially as claimed (See the Figures and specification at column 3, lines 60-64 where it explains how the grooves make certain areas of the cushion softer).

Claims 1-2, 4, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harding et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,142,573).

Harding et al teach a continuous, one piece seamless structure substantially as claimed (See the Figures and the Abstract, the specification at column 3, lines 55-58, column 4, lines 60-67 and column 5, lines 1-9).

Claims 1-2, 4, and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lampel (U.S. Patent No. 6,625,830 B2).

Lampel teaches a continuous, one piece seamless structure substantially as claimed since the layers are bonded together (See the Figures, the Abstract, and specification at column 6, lines 25-27 and lines 33-35 and other parts of the specification).

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-26, 28, and 31-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Snyder et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,522,447).

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Snyder et al teach a continuous, one piece seamless structure substantially as claimed (See the Figures, the Abstract, and specification, especially at column 5, lines 12-63, column 7, lines 18-41, column 8, lines 42-67 and the tables in columns 9-10 which teaches the various densities, deflections and Support factors, as well as various materials that can be used, as claimed).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 23-25 and 47-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snyder et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,522,447) in view of Grant et al (U.S. Patent No. 3,647,260) and Nickerson et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,869,164).

Snyder et al teaches the structure substantially as claimed including the use of some of the same materials in manufacturing the seat cushions but not all, or at least does not specify some of those materials. However, Grant et al and Nickerson teach the use of some of the materials and blow agents such as azodicarbonamide etc. to be old. It would have been obvious and well within the level of ordinary skill in the art to modify the seat, as taught by Snyder et al, to include some of the materials, as those

taught by Grant et al and Nickerson et al, so that that the seat would possess some of the characteristics that those materials provide and to satisfy the needs of various manufacturers and/or consumers.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sheppard, Maier, Vento, Banno et al, Chew et al, and Nakamura teach structures and concepts similar to the present invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney B. White whose telephone number is (703) 308-2276.

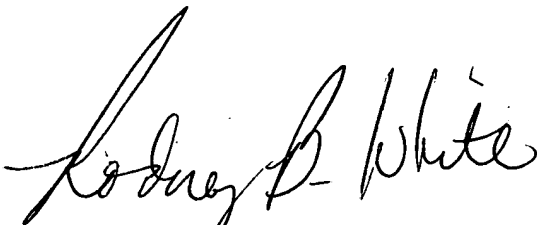
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on (703) 308-0827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Rodney B. White,
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3636
June 14, 2004



RODNEY B. WHITE
PRIMARY EXAMINER